

Lauren Nelson



Lauren Nelson began her career in education over ten years ago when she worked as a Residence Hall Director at Cornell University, her undergraduate alma mater. In this role, she developed a passion for creating intentional and creative programming to support students in pursuit of their educational goals. In 2010, Ms. Nelson completed a Master of Arts in Higher Education at New York University. During her studies at NYU, she worked as a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Student Life at NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study, where she served as an advisor to student-led clubs, worked with faculty to support academic programming, and oversaw New Student Orientation. In addition, she served as an advisor to the Albert Gallatin Scholars Program, where she planned and chaperoned two international academic travel trips for undergraduates to Venezuela and Turkey.

Upon completion of her Master's degree, Ms. Nelson moved to Philadelphia and began work as a Coordinator of the Sponsor-A-Scholar Program at Philadelphia Futures, an educational non-profit that provides college access services to low-income, first generation students. In this position, Ms. Nelson developed innovative programming to better assist students and their families through the college application process. In addition, she developed a partnership with Northeast High School to guide a group of their high school seniors through the college application process by providing on-going workshops and individualized support. In 2013, she left Philadelphia Futures and began working at One Bright Ray, Inc, an educational non-profit in North Philadelphia. As the Director of College Partnerships, Ms. Nelson oversees Harcum College @ One Bright Ray, an off-site campus of Harcum College where students can attend evening classes

in their neighborhood to earn an Associate's Degree. During her time in this position, Ms. Nelson has implemented retention and academic support services geared toward supporting low-income, first-generation, and non-traditional students in their pursuit of a college degree.